SEPTEMBER
1965

Panchayati Raj

Modern Indian villages like Gharuwan in the Punjab are becoming sacred meeting places of the old and the new. The picture shows a sanitary well with brick pavements all around. On the left is the new building of the Panchayat Ghar and the Service Co-operative and on right, a temple and a Gurdwara—a Community centre indeed !

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OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL, RURAL EXTENSION TRAINING CENTRE
29 SEP 1965
T. KALLUPATTI

LETTERS

SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES IN VILLAGES

Sir,

WE ARE often told that the educated unemployed should go back to the village and engage themselves in rural upliftment work. But if the villages offer no incentive and avenues of income the migration of educated youngmen from the villages to the cities, it is felt, can never be stopped. As agriculture in our country has not yet progressed to that extent to offer an attractive and lucrative occupation, the Government has to pay attention to small scale industries to keep the rural youth engaged in their respective villages.

I suggest that small scale industries have to be planned and established village-wise. This will enable a great number of people to get work staying at home. They will then no longer rush to the cities and this would ultimately lessen industrial unrest. The dispersal of industries to villages will go a long way to reduce unemployment and underemployment there.

Private and cooperative sectors, without any discrimination, may be encouraged to start industries in the villages. There are, however, six obstacles to the rapid establishment and development of small scale industries in the country. They are, (1) shortage of raw materials (2) lack of skilled artisans (3) shortage of finance (4) red tapism (5) lack of technical know-how and (6) lack of marketing facilities. If the Government comes forward to remove all these obstacles, the small scale industries will, no doubt, flourish in the villages changing the economic lot of the people and thus usher in a new India.

Yours etc.
S. K. Shah
Progress Assistant

29-7-65
Kodur,
Cuddapah Dt.,
Andhra Pradesh

ROLE OF RURAL YOUTH IN C.D.

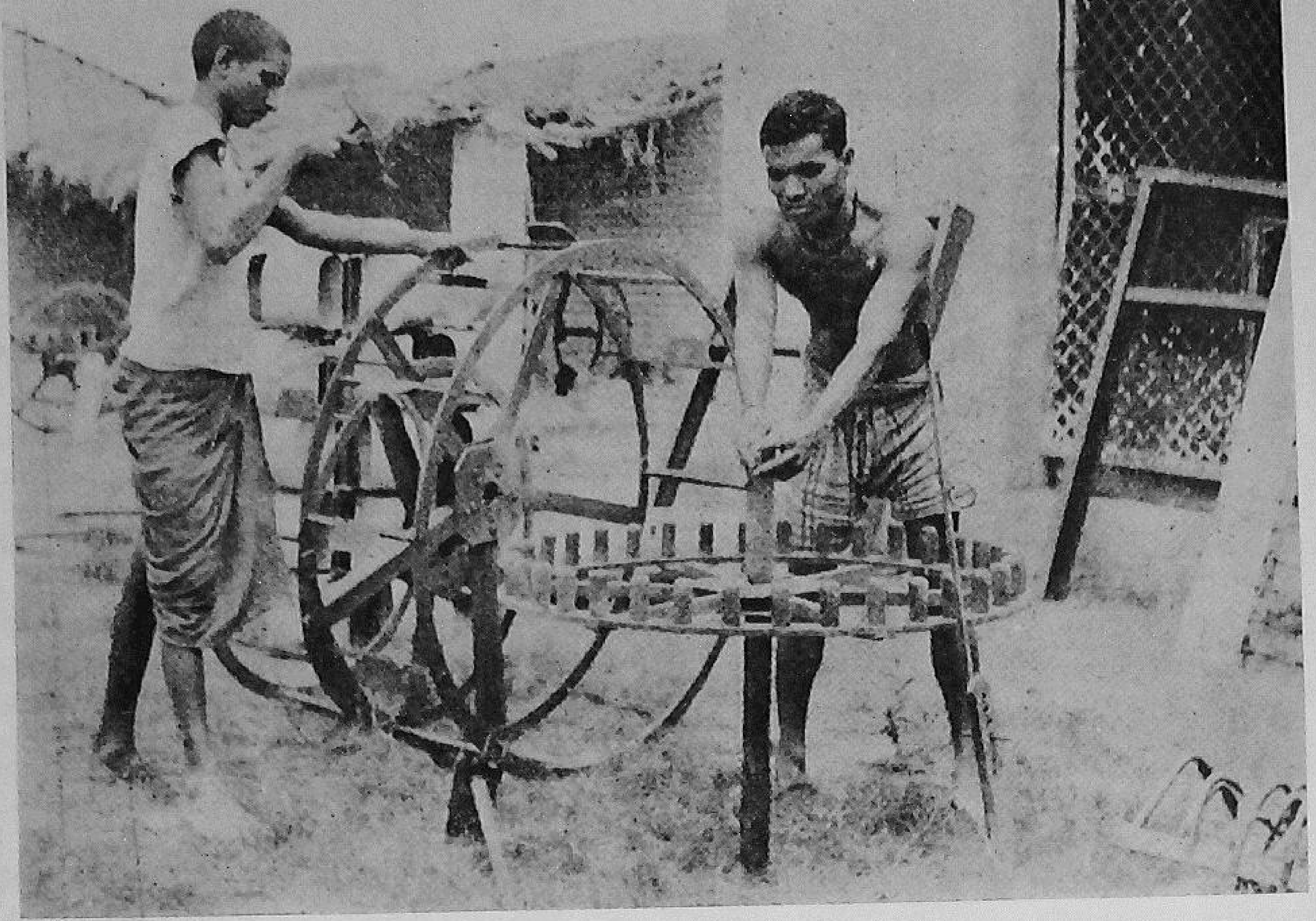
Sir,

NEEDLESS to say, the future of a country depends on its young men and women. With their energy, vigour and indomitable courage they take the country forward. This has happened in all progressive countries.

In our country the young generation, particularly the rural youth, has not been geared properly to the task of nation building. It is painful to note that the village youth is mostly indifferent and callous to its responsibility to the country.

If we try to analyse why the Community Development programme has failed to produce the desired result in the thirteen years of its implementation all over the country we would find that one of the main factors is absence of active cooperation from the rural youth.

(Continued on page 7)



Workers busy in making a persian wheel at Panchayat Udyog at Basti

Role of Industrial Units in Rural Upliftment
uttar pradesh experience

A. S. PARMAR

THE INNER boundary gate of iron-bars wheeled in and a wrinkled but beaming face welcomed us. We were inside the development colony of Mehdawal Block in district Basti of Uttar Pradesh. The proverbially poor district Basti has the largest rural population with the lowest per capita income in our country.

"Meet Shri Mahip Narain Misra, the Pradhan of our Panchayat Industrial Project", said the B.D.O. who accompanied us. We folded our hands in the saluation to the Pradhan, who was all the more humble while reciprocating our *namaste*.

The Pradhan took a turn to the left and we stood in front of huge tinsheds in that big courtyard on three sides each having a sign-board : Agricultural implements, Button manufacturing, Humepipes and latrine-parts moulding. There was a small attractive room with a thatched roof at the centre of the courtyard which was the show room of manufactured goods. The sounds of hammering, chipping and chiselling all around were enough to convince us that we were inside a busy industrial project.

The Pradhan took us to an old derelict room, the thatched roof of which was badly worn-out. "This was the place", said the Pradhan, "where we had started our Panchayat Industrial Project on October 2, 1962. Three or four persons used to work then in this room. This we have preserved as a memorial. This will tell any one who comes to see our present project how we started our struggle against poverty and how we are emerging out victorious".

I looked at him. His face was glowing with success. "We did all this," continued the Pradhan, "to have urban amenities right here, to stop the educated young men from leaving this village for cities in search of jobs."

We stood motionless in front of that shattered thatch as if watching the ruins of some historical building found after excavation. That depleted thatch was before us, a symbol of poverty of the villages and dozens of artisans were chiselling the future full of hopes all around us. The past and the future in the making were there together in one courtyard and the

Pradhan, a representative of the villagers was dreaming of changing the face of the village through Panchayat industries. "I hope I am not making tall claims." The Pradhan's voice startled us. "If we cannot have water, electricity and sanitation in the village no educated man and woman would like to live here. And who else will do all this except our village Panchayat?"

I nodded in affirmation and said, "But Pradhanji, we have to go a long way to have these amenities in the village."

"Not at all", exclaimed the Pradhan. "There may be innumerable impediments but the need of the hour is the greatest factor. The rural people are gradually becoming conscious of the civic amenities. They no longer want to remain satisfied with their squalid life. This is indicated in their growing demand for good roads, sanitary latrines, etc. Believe me, Sir, our Panchayat Project finds it difficult to cope with the demand for P.R.A.I. type latrines. This is the need of the hour. Every one wants better living. A higher income is required for higher standard of life. The income of the villages can be increased through rural industrialisation."

We followed the Pradhan who took us round each section of the Industrial Project. He told us in detail that it was on October 2, 1962 twenty-two village Panchayats contributed rupees one hundred each and this Panchayat Industrial Project was started with a capital of rupees two thousand two hundred. At first the Project made only latrine-parts and moulds and after six months of its existence the next section of button making came into being. The raw material for button making was found in abundance on the beds of small rivers in the Tarai here.

"The very first year", the Pradhan's voice was full of excitement, "we were able to sell goods worth Rs. 7,500 and make a profit of about Rs. 3,000. The next year we took up the construction of hume-pipes and cement concrete walls for small sized wells and we produced total goods worth Rs. 30,000. Two more sections, one to manufacture agricultural implements and the other to prepare hemp carpets for the requirements of primary schools have been added. Thus our Industrial Project has been able to produce goods worth over Rs. 70,000 during these three years with the sale proceeds of roughly Rs. 50,000 up to date. If a child begins to run on his feet within three years it certainly indicates a good normal growth."

He smiled with full contentment. We looked at him and were convinced that he symbolised the aspirations of the rural people. "You are right Pradhanji," I said, "we have nothing to worry about our future. The fact that twenty-two Panchayats have jointly started a Project with a meagre capital of Rs. 2,200 and had sale proceeds of about Rs. 50,000 within a brief span of three years, should open the eyes of other Panchayats in the country. I am sure it is the most honourable solution of the problem of financial shortage that most of the Panchayats are facing today." "Our village folk generally have no work after harvesting," said the Pradhan. "Certainly they cannot expect to have a smooth life with the earnings from the monsoon cultivation only. Prosperity lies in industry and Goddess of Wealth smiles on you only when you are industrious, only when you maintain an active life. At least we have found the solution of innumerable hardships through our Industrial Project."

We too were convinced. And there stands Panchayat Industrial Project of Mehdawal Block as a corrective for any one who may doubt the truth of the Pradhan's statement. The Panchayat Industrial Projects have been launched in Uttar Pradesh to establish a harmony between agriculture and industry. The project is the strongest weapon in the hands of the rural people in their fight against the ugly demon, Poverty. To crush the demon completely and to give our future generations a life free from illiteracy, hunger and want we want more such projects and more people like Pradhanji all over the country.

COMMUNITY CENTRE IN SEVEN DAYS

Sikandarpur Kalan's Achievement

(By Our Correspondent)

THE PEOPLE of Sikandarpur Kalan, a village four miles from Lucknow on the Lucknow-Kursi Road, made history recently when they built a spacious four-room structure to house the 'Poshtik Poshan Graha' —nutritious diet centre—in the record time of seven days. Each one of the adult population of the village numbering about seven hundred offered voluntary labour for this purpose.

What inspired the people of Sikandarpur Kalan to perform this unique feat, one may well ask. According to the Applied Nutrition Programme the Central Government, with assistance and guidance from the World Health Organisation, are opening nutritious food centres in the Community Development Blocks in the country to educate the masses about correct and scientific methods of producing nutritious diet and about how best to serve it to give maximum sound health to the villagers. The programme initially covers expectant and nursing mothers and pre-school going children in the villages.

The Chinhat Block of Uttar Pradesh, under the jurisdiction of which Sikandarpur Kalan lies, was given one centre for the Applied Nutrition. The people of Sikandarpur Kalan stole a march over the rest of the people in the Block by putting up a building without even using cement. As cement was not readily available, the Block authorities advised them to use a combination of *surkhi* and lime.

The Chinhat Block also offered a grant-in-aid of Rs. 3,000 and the villagers themselves raised a further sum of Rs. 1,000 besides a gift of two acres of land and voluntary labour to complete the project in record time. The building stands today as a concrete proof of the maxim, "Self-help is the best help".

This is, however, not the sole achievement of the people of Sikandarpur Kalan. They have brought in an all round progress. The women of the village are playing an important role in changing the face of their village. They have shown special interest in literacy and craft activities.

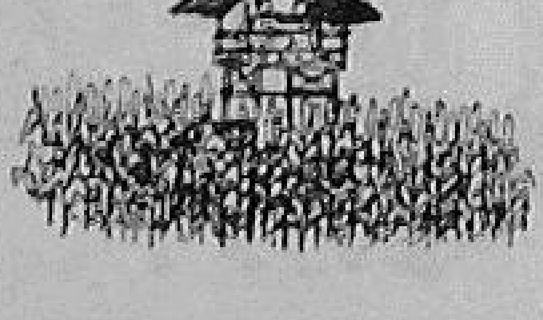
Thirty village girls of between five and fifteen volunteered to become active members of the village Yuvati Dal and thirty-five women have already joined women's welfare activities, which include knitting, weaving, sewing and painting.

The heartening progress made by Sikandarpur Kalan has encouraged the Block authorities to plan the establishment of an industrial centre. Facilities will also be provided to the villagers for training in poultry-farming, fruit preservation, soap making and candle making. Such incentives will certainly expedite the march of the people of Sikandarpur Kalan towards prosperity.

The whole village today throbs with a new life. Even the children of this village feel proud of their achievement. A seventh-class student when asked about the newly constructed Applied Nutrition Centre said with a beaming face that he together with one hundred and fifty other village lads worked for four hours every day to help complete the building. "It will give much needed education to our mothers and sisters in health and hygiene", he said.

"We are proud of the Centre", said a member of the village Panchayat, "and did not at all mind the hard work of completing it in seven days."

If this noble example set by the people of Sikandarpur Kalan is followed by all the rural people of our country the ultimate goal of the Community Development Programme will be reached in no time.



GARHE-KA-PURWA

new strides in community development

MAHESH CHANDRA

The school children of Garhe-ka-Purwa giving a display of physical exercise

HOW MANY OF you have heard of Garhe-Ka-Purwa? Yes, how many? I am sure this obscure village of Bhagyanagar Block in Etawaha district of Uttar Pradesh is not known to any one of you. But this village, like most of the villages in our country today has taken active part in the silent revolution that is gradually changing the face of rural India. The village has attained self-sufficiency through sincere efforts of its people and their leader.

Garhe-Ka-Purwa is a small village having in all 56 acres of cultivated land. Due to the efforts of the Pradhan and the village-folk almost all of it has been brought under irrigation. The villagers did not ask for government assistance for this. They made their own arrangements. Besides this total cultivated area, the villagers have also reclaimed five acres of *usar* land recently. Shri Jagannath Prasad, who is the Pradhan of this village, is a practical farmer and has gathered experience out of his keen observation. He realized from the very beginning that increased agricultural production was possible only when the cultivator made his own arrangements for irrigation. He showed the path by constructing his own masonry well and installing a persian wheel in it. The results were highly encouraging and seven other cultivators followed suit by constructing their own masonry wells which were fitted with persian wheels. Thus, they were able to follow an intensive crop pattern which enabled them to produce nearly 100 mds. per acre of foodgrains and vegetables in a year.

Shri Jagannath Prasad himself excelled this year in mixed cropping of potato and wheat with a bumper crop in each. His wheat crop which could well be taken as an exceptionally good single crop, was admired by all. This achievement was possible with hard and sustained work, green manuring, and application of prescribed dozes of chemical fertilizers. Even this year, cultivators in the village have constructed nine masonry wells. It goes to their credit that none of them applied for any loan or assistance for construction of these wells. It shows the people of Garhe-Ka-Purwa have tremendous faith in themselves. They have proved that with hard work and sincere efforts it is possible to solve any problem on earth.

The village has an ideal primary school, of which the people are rightly proud. The villagers contributed liberally to establish it. It has a well laid out garden and also a kitchen garden irrigated from the adjoining well of Shri Jagannath Prasad. The school lays special emphasis on cleanliness, hygienic habits and physical fitness of the students. The display of immaculate musical P.T. by the school-children in spotless white uniform received warm appreciation from the Chief Minister of the State when she recently visited the district.

In a village like this where holdings are small the effort of the people has been a living example of the fact that correct leadership, determination, sustained labour and adoption of improved techniques can lead towards happiness, self-sufficiency and prosperity.

STORY OF KENCHAMMA

R. CHANNABASAPPA

Down in the south in a small hamlet lives a girl, Kenchamma, by name. She is young—still in her teens—but has the indomitable courage and spirit of a grown-up man. She has become on her own right the heroine of the locality, much admired and respected by all—young and old.

Doddatolur is a small but progressive village in the Somwarpet Development Block in Coorg district of Mysore. This tiny but charming village is nestled among the lush green forests, for which Coorg is just famous. As we trek about seven miles along the village road from Somwarpet, the Block Headquarters, to Doddatolur we come across a little hamlet, surrounded by green paddy fields, plantain orchards and vegetable gardens, presenting a typical Coorg panorama! That is the hamlet of Kenchamma, the heroine of our story.

Kenchamma has one motto before her and that is "less talk and more work", which she follows in letter and spirit. Her father Ningappa is just a humble ryot with only five acres of land to his credit. Though he is the head of the family, Kenchamma—whom he characterises with pride as the "Light" of his house—has taken over the entire responsibility of running the household thus easing the burden of her aged parents. But Kenchamma is not the only daughter of the house: she is second in the house of ten children.

Kenchamma realises the difficulties of her parents. She is doing her best to lessen their burden. Work is her worship; work is her life and part of it. She wants to work hard, not only for the betterment of her own house, but also for the welfare of her neighbours. Full of life as she is, she feels a constant urge to learn new things and thus enrich her life in her own humble way. When the Community Development Programme made its way into the village, Kenchamma got the necessary opportunity to enlarge her horizon of work. The programme kindled her enthusiasm for some creative and useful work.

To begin with, Kenchamma enrolled herself as a member of the Mahila Samaj, which had just then been started in the nearby village. She also participated in the Gram Sahayaks' Training Camp, organised by the Block authorities. The training she received there opened altogether a new chapter in her life. She pledged herself to put into practice all she had learnt in the camp. When the Nutritious Food Programme was introduced in the Block, she elicited all required information about the scheme and decided to implement it in her own land. And today one can see a luxurious vegetable garden, with full of vegetables of all kinds—such as tomatoes, brinjals, cabbages, carrots, beans, and what not—near Kenchamma's house, which pleases the eye and attracts the attention of any passer-by. She never fails to take her guests round the garden and present them with the fruits of her labour, with a certain amount of pride!

When her father works with the plough and the shovel in the fields, Kenchamma, accompanied by her brothers and sisters, invariably helps him in transplanting, weeding, watering etc. She is always found in the fields engaged in some work or the other. She is never tired of work; to her, life is all work! Whenever she finds some spare time, she utilises it for helping her neighbours either in raising a kitchen garden or setting up a smokeless hearth or teaching embroidery work and the like.

Kenchamma's is not a modern house with cement-concrete work. It is an ordinary Malnad type house, with tiled-roofs and mud walls etc. But one must see the tidiness of the house as well as its inhabitants including the little children! Though Kenchamma could not pursue her studies beyond the Vth Standard, she sends all her brothers and sisters to school and she is determined to help them to pursue their studies as far as possible.

Kenchamma working in her kitchen garden which has been raised under the Applied Nutrition Programme of the Block

Kenchamma takes an active part in the working of the local Mahila Samaj. She has also undergone a 15-day course in the Associated Women Workers' Training Centre at Mandya. She invariably participates in all the training camps, seminars and meetings conducted by the Block authorities. Having also received training in compost manufacture, she herself prepared about half a dozen compost pits by scientific methods. She has won prizes by securing the highest quantity of compost. A Registered seed-grower, she has secured the first place in an intelligence test on agriculture at the Block-level Young Farmers' Rally.

Soil erosion is a scourge to the farmers of this part of the country. The ryots can hardly get eight quintals of paddy per acre. But through sheer ingenuity and hard labour Kenchamma was able to secure 12 quintals of paddy per acre during the last harvest and she hopes to get still more in the coming season. For the first time in the history of the village, she has introduced the C145 variety of paddy in her fields under the Japanese method. She has also attempted to grow groundnut in that area for the first time. In addition to compost manure, she also applies chemical and green manures to her crops. She has the distinction of winning the first and second prizes in compost manufacture in the Taluk-level competitions during 1963-64 and 1964-65 respectively.

Kenchamma has not lagged behind in other aspects of the Community Development Programme. She has taken up poultry farming also. In addition to the *desi* stock of poultry raised by her, she has approached the Block authorities for some good pedigree stock of birds. Bee-keeping is her another hobby. Owner of two bee-hive boxes, she gets all her requirements of honey from them.

Kenchamma's hospitality in proverbial! She beams with joy whenever any guest calls at her house and she treats him with wholesome milk from her own cow, pure honey from her own bee-hives and fresh vegetables from her own kitchen garden. Yet she is very humble, courteous and modest. No wonder that her father is too proud of his dear daughter and he has no hesitation whatever in openly acknowledging that she is the 'real' head of the family! This clever girl has also induced her father to become a member of the village cooperative society!

In short, Kenchamma is an ideal young woman in every sense of the term. She is not only an ideal daughter to her parents, but also an ideal sister to her brothers and sisters, an ideal to her neighbours and also to the society at large.

LETTERS

(*Continued from page* 1)

It is high time that the young men and women of rural India shake off their inertia and come forward to bear the burden. They must realise that the destiny of the country is in their hand and if they fail to discharge their duties the future generations would never forgive them.

In every village there should be an active Yuvak Mandal which must take part in agricultural and industrial development. If the village is undeveloped in all respects the Yuvak Mandal must organise and implement economic projects like vegetable production, pisciculture, poultry, etc. They can also help in launching cooperative movement. Shramdan should be a vital programme for the Yuvak Mandal. Mass education, sanitation, games, literary activities etc. should also receive keen attention from Yuvak Mandal. If the young men and women in every village engage themselves in all such activities with right earnestness, the face of rural India will change in no time.

16-7-65
Hadagali,
Bellari Dt.
Mysore.

Yours etc.,
P. V. Panchaksharappa
Extension Officer Social Education

A batch of girl students of a Rural Institute working in the field

Changing Panorama of Indian Education

After Independence it was rightly stressed by our leaders that the pattern of our education system required to be changed. It was felt that education had to be so oriented that the young men would be attracted to the villages. Out of this realisation were born the Rural Institutes in fourteen places with a definite role to play in making villages such prosperous, interesting and culturally rich places that young people would find more zest, more cultural advantages and more opportunity for pioneering there rather than in cities. These Institutes aim at stopping the continuous depletion of talented youth from the rural areas. The annual enrolment in these Institutes is quite heartening and they are rendering a very helpful service to rural India. The accompanying pictures give a glimpse of what the students learn at the Rural Institutes.

Students experimenting in the laboratory of the Rural Institute at Delhi

Two students working on a small appliance in the smithy workshop of an Institute

Ploughing demonstration for the benefit of the students at an Institute Farm

A girl student conducting a basic education class for children at a village. Students of the Institutes are sent out occasionally to the surrounding villages to study the conditions in rural areas and to assist in the rural development work.

CHAMRAURI FORGES AHEAD

It is not difficult to change the face of rural India—which is the aim of the Community Development programme—in a very short time if right type of leadership can be found. The villagers are meek and submissive by nature and always obey the leader they love. All that the leader is required to do is to convince the people of his ability and earn their love. Then the whole village can be set on the path to progress. This has been amply proved by the young Sarpanch Shri Bool Chand of the village Panchayat Chamrauri in Karnal district of Punjab.

The Panchayat consisting of three villages, Nagal, Amroha and Chamrauri, has a population of 650. Before Shri Bool Chand became the Sarpanch of the Panchayat, Chamrauri was like any other neglected village of India, without the barest amenities of life.

There was no pucca road. During the rainy season all the kuccha roads turned into muddy stretches causing tremendous inconvenience to their users. But nobody cared. The villagers were accustomed to this inconvenience. The first thing that Bool Chand did in 1959-60 was to call a meeting of all the villagers and their families. When they gathered he proposed that all the roads in the village should be paved. All the persons present at the meeting readily agreed to his proposal. But where to get the money from, they all wondered. Bool Chand had a solution for this problem also. He rose to announce an amount that he would contribute for the pavement of roads. The members of the Panchayat also promised to contribute. This created an immediate effect on the villagers. On the spot a promised sum of Rs. 3,218 was secured. The project was undertaken and completed at a cost of Rs. 5,177. The balance was met from a grant from the Block and other sources of the Panchayat.

The villagers now felt encouraged. They realised that they need not continue to live with menacing problems all of which can be solved by themselves. They also saw that money was not a criterion for undertaking any project. If they were sincere about it, money would flow in. This self-realisation of the people of Chamrauri unleashed a surge of new life. Chamrauri started its march towards prosperity—towards happy smooth living.

The next problem, tackled by Bool Chand and his people was the flood from the river Rakshi which ravaged the villages during monsoon every year. The villages got completely cut off from the outside world. There was no means of communication for the people of Nagal to visit Radaur, where the Block headquarters is situated, nor was it possible for the inhabitants of Chamrauri to go to Ladwa, the nearest market to sell their produce. Bool Chand followed the same method. He called a meeting of all the villagers and placed his proposal for the construction of a bridge on the river Rakshi. The people agreed to do shramdan for the earthwork and contributed Rs. 1,734 in cash. The project estimated to cost the Panchayat about Rs. 5,500 was launched. The Block once again came forward with a grant and Panchayat tapped its other sources to complete the work.

Thus the people of Chamrauri have completed a number of projects. They meet, discuss and make voluntary contributions and the job is done in no time. In 1961-62 additional rooms were provided to the local school at a cost of Rs. 8,332, in 1962-63 a sum of Rs. 2,320 was contributed to the Defence Fund and in 1963-64 bricks worth Rs. 1,758 for the boundary wall of the school were contributed.

Chamrauri has also a cooperative society which has recently opened a depot of fertilizers and sugar. The fertilizer has helped in raising the agricultural production. The people have become so fertilizer minded that as many as 1,000 bags have been used for 650 acres of cultivable land. The signs of prosperity are seen on the smiling faces of the people of Chamrauri.

Chamrauri has thus set an example before all the Panchayats in the country. The success of Panchayati Raj, no doubt, depends on the right approach to creating initiative among the villagers.

Paddy Cultivation in Arid Zone

nadbai panchayat samiti's achievement

SHAKTI TRIVEDI

OUR TOURIST bus started its journey to Jaipur. Agra with its beautiful Taj, Fort, Fatehpur Sikri and other grandeur of the past was soon left behind. I was still overwhelmed at the magnificence of the Moghul architecture. I was now going to another place with a romantic past but this time to have a glimpse of the rich heritage of Hindu architecture.

"Ladies and gentlemen", the voice of the guide startled me, "we are now crossing the border of Uttar Pradesh and entering Rajasthan."

I looked out. The countryside looked alike. Excepting the boards put up by men, there was nothing to mark the borders. It was all alike. The same green fields stretched on both sides of the National Highway, men and women worked in them and raised their heads to stare at our bus and the children ran across the road.

Suddenly I was struck by surprise. "Aren't these paddy fields ?" I asked the guide.

"Yes, they are", he replied.

"Strange ! I never knew that paddy could be grown in Rajasthan." The guide smiled.

"If you don't mind, please tell the driver to stop here, I want to get down," I said.

"Why ?"

"I want to find out who are growing paddy here."

"But we can't stop so long," the guide objected, "other passengers may not be so much interested in paddy cultivation, you know."

"Yes, I know. Please stop just to let me out."

The guide surveyed me from head to foot without a word.

The bus stopped and I alighted. I waved my hand and the bus resumed its journey. Why wander among the past marvels and ignore the present ones ! I mused to myself.

There was a signboard which, read 'Nadbai Panchayat Samiti—This Way'. I followed the direction and presently came across the office of the Samiti.

"Where can I find the Pradhan of the Samiti ?" I asked a man who came out of the office.

"Parasharji ?" he asked. "He is inside".

There sat Shri Hotilal Parashar, Pradhan of Nadbai Panchayat Samiti, deeply engrossed in a file.

"Sorry to disturb you Pradhanji," I said.

"Please have a seat," he said.

He kept the file aside. "What can I do for you, Sir ?" he asked.

"I was going to Jaipur, you see," I said. "While passing by Dehra Cross I came across green paddy fields which made me cut the journey and come to you."

"Really, how nice ! You seem to be a lover of nature," he smiled.

"Not that. I never knew that paddy could be grown in Rajasthan. I have come to ask you how you have made this impossible possible."

"Nothing is impossible on earth," the Pradhan replied in a philosophical mood. "All that you need to do a job is a strong will and hard labour. I am proud of my people here. They have not hesitated to take the challenge of food scarcity in the country. You would be surprised to know that we have been growing paddy here for the last four years. One village scored over the rest by producing thousand maunds of paddy in one crop season."

Then he told how and why the plan for paddy cultivation was chalked out. The whole region was flooded by two rivers every year during the monsoon. The floods receded leaving behind stagnated back water. This was all required for paddy cultivation and the villagers were quick in making the bid for it.

"Here is sample of rice produced by us".

I looked at it. The rice was not inferior to the best varieties we have in the country.

I felt interested in the activities of the Samiti. Shri Parashar satisfied my curiosities with a beaming face.

There are 34 Panchayats under the jurisdiction of Nadbai Panchayat Samiti out of which six are Nyaya

Panchayats. One village Panchayat consists of eight elected and two coopted members, one of whom represents the women while the other scheduled castes or tribes of the community. These eight panches elect one Sarpanch. Thirty-four Sarpanches on their turn have elected Shri Parashar as their Pradhan.

The State Government has provided dozens of officers, clerks, technicians and other employees to carry out the working of the Panchayat Samiti. The Block Development Officer takes keen interest in the activities of the Samiti and due to his active cooperation the Samiti has been able to make rapid strides towards progress and prosperity.

The Samiti does not solely depend on the Government grants and loans but has its own sources of income. Recently it has decided to levy education tax to increase its income. In the current financial year the Government has allocated a sum of Rs. 2,50,000 for the Panchayat Samiti. Besides other taxes like house tax, property tax, cattle tax, excise tax, etc., the Samiti gets 5 per cent share from the land tenure collected by the Tehsil. It also receives taxes from small scale industries and brick-kilns. The procedure for levying new taxes is very simple. The taxation proposal is placed before the Panchayat Samiti in a meeting and if the majority agrees to it, it is accepted.

"How much education tax you have imposed?" I asked.

"Fifty paise from every child of the family who goes to school and three rupees from every family having more than six school going children", the Pradhan replied.

The Panchayat Samiti is at present running 141 primary schools with 200 teachers. Other Middle and Higher Secondary schools are being run by the Inspector of Schools.

"It seems you have arranged for good irrigation and I find lush green all around," I said to change the topic. "In most of the villages we extract water from the wells," Shri Parashar disclosed, "still many farmers depend upon rain and practice dry farming."

"Don't you have canals and rivers in your area?"

"No, we have only barsati canals which inundate the area in monsoon. In summer the farmers have to wait for rains. But things are fast improving. The Government has come forward to help us. The water will be diverted from the Pathena canal and our farmers will be well off shortly", he said with confidence.

"But what are you doing for other villages which don't get water from this canal?" I asked.

"We are disbursing loans, one thousand rupees each to the farmers for digging wells in their fields."

Besides paddy, groundnut is cultivated extensively in the area and it pays good returns to the farmers.

The Samiti has many cooperative societies functioning smoothly. Some agricultural societies are running on a large scale. Recently, one agricultural society has constructed a big seed store to procure the farm output of the area.

The National Highway has come as a boon to the farmers of the Samiti. But the approach roads to the most of the villages are not satisfactory. Some of them have been built entirely through shramdan.

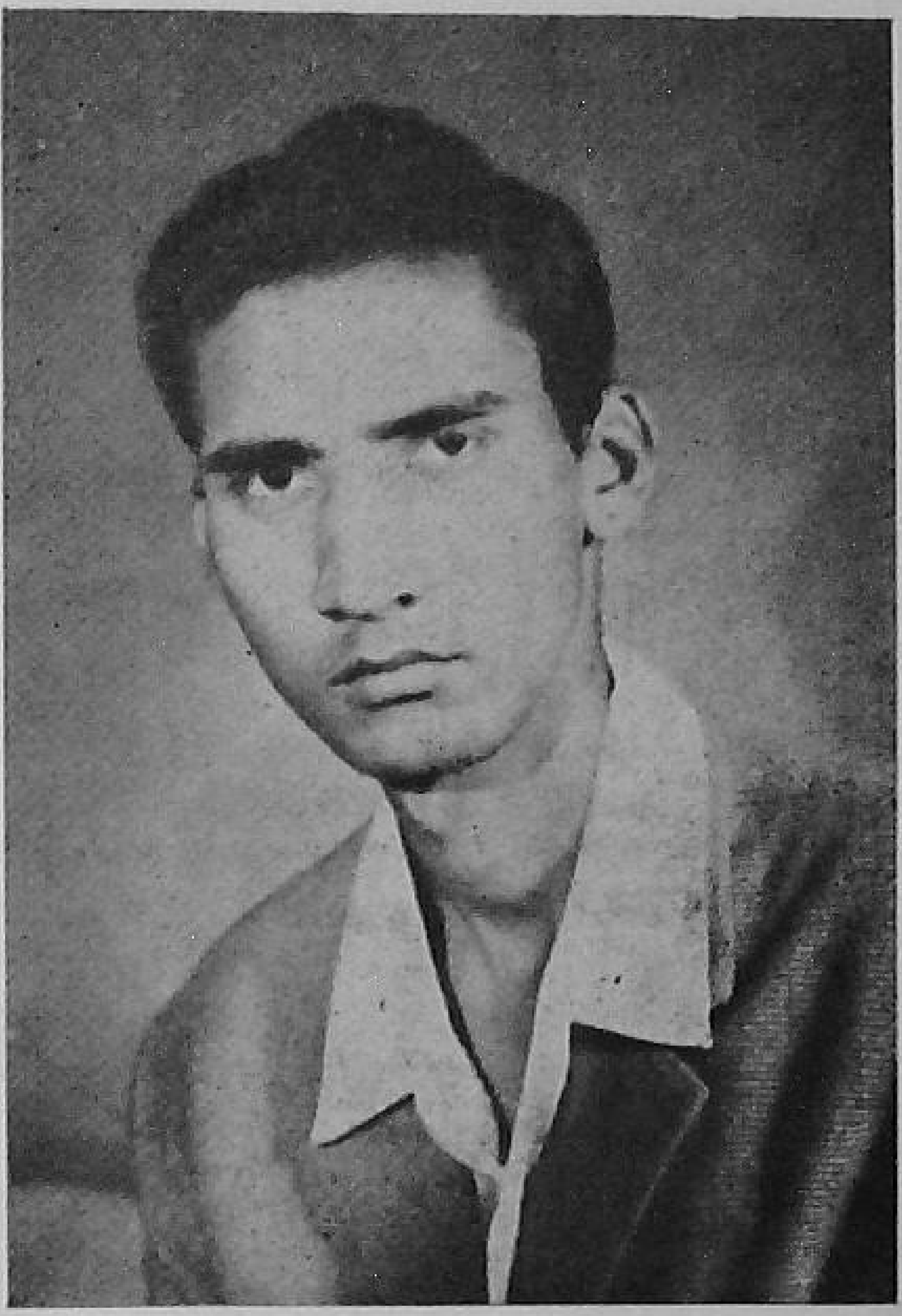
I left Samiti office with a heavy heart. I wish I could spend some more time with Shri Parashar.

The Samiti has done a big job by opening new avenues of income for the farmers of this region who had so long been struggling hard to eke out a bare living from the soil. Men like Shri Parashar are writing a new history of our country and they would be remembered with gratitude by our future generations.

A NEW AWAKENING

THE RURAL India is slowly awaking from its age-long slumber. The Community Development programme bringing in its wake democratic decentralisation has geared the rural people to the task of ushering in a new India—an India free from illiteracy, hunger and poverty. The posterity will never forget the present workers who have dedicated themselves to this noble task. The village school teachers among others are playing their role with sincerity and missionary zeal. Here we narrate the story of one village teacher who has changed the face of his village by hard labour—a teacher who has led the adults of the village from the darkness of ignorance to the light of knowledge. He is Shri Bhairon Lal Vijai Vargiya of Kharar.

Kharar is a small village in Salumber Panchayat Samiti on Udaipur Salumber Road in Rajasthan. There is only one Basic Primary School in the village, run by the Panchayat Samiti. Shri Bhairon Lal Vijai Vargiya, who joined this school as a teacher, has not only improved the standard of the school, but has also inspired adults of the village to learn three R's within a short span of about one year of his service.



Shri Bhairon Lal Vijai Vargiya

Shri Bhairon Lal came to the school of Kharar in August 1963. Within three months he made a thorough survey of the children of school-going age in the village and tried his level best to transform the school into a basic one in the true sense of the term. Encouraged by the dynamic force of the teacher, the students of the school scored over others in the regional sports competitions.

Shri Vijai Vargiya was not content by only improving the standard of education of children. He carried out a survey of illiterate persons of above 15 years of age in the village and found that there were 205 such persons of different communities. He showed this list to the Sarpanch and got it verified in the meeting of the Gram Sabha. He opened an adult education centre with 21 adults only at the beginning. As a result of his continuous efforts he educated 55 adults out of 205 in three months. Even old men of about sixty years came to the centre to learn how to read printed words.

The centre functioned not only as a class room, but also as a club room for the villagers. Shri Bhairon Lal obtained a radio set from Panchayat Kharar for his adult pupils. In their night class the adults listened to various radio programmes and held discussions on topics of their interest. Collective singing of bhajans and folk songs with proper musical accompaniment was the main feature of the daily programme to provide recreation to the farmers after their day's hard work. In order to keep the villagers informed about important developments in national and international fields, Shri Vijai Vargiya used to display the important news items regularly on a board at the bus stand, the main terminus at the village. News of the success of the centre began to spread to the neighbourhood and other schools of the Panchayat Samiti also followed suit.

It was a big job well done by a single devoted teacher. Shri Bhairon Lal Vijai Vargiya, who has efficiently done the work, has been given the first prize of Rs. 300 in cash by the Panchayat Samiti, Mavali.

Encouraged by the success of this experiment the Night Adult Schools were conducted in the 36 Primary Schools of Panchayat Samiti, Salumber, in which 654 adults were educated. In these centres 510 adults appeared at the examination out of which 410 got through.

Men like Shri Vijai Vargiya will go down in the history as builders of the nation. They will have a prominent place in the history of our country.

(*Courtesy* : *Rajasthan Vikas*)

42 QUINTALS OF JOWAR PER ACRE

Record Production by Jatkar

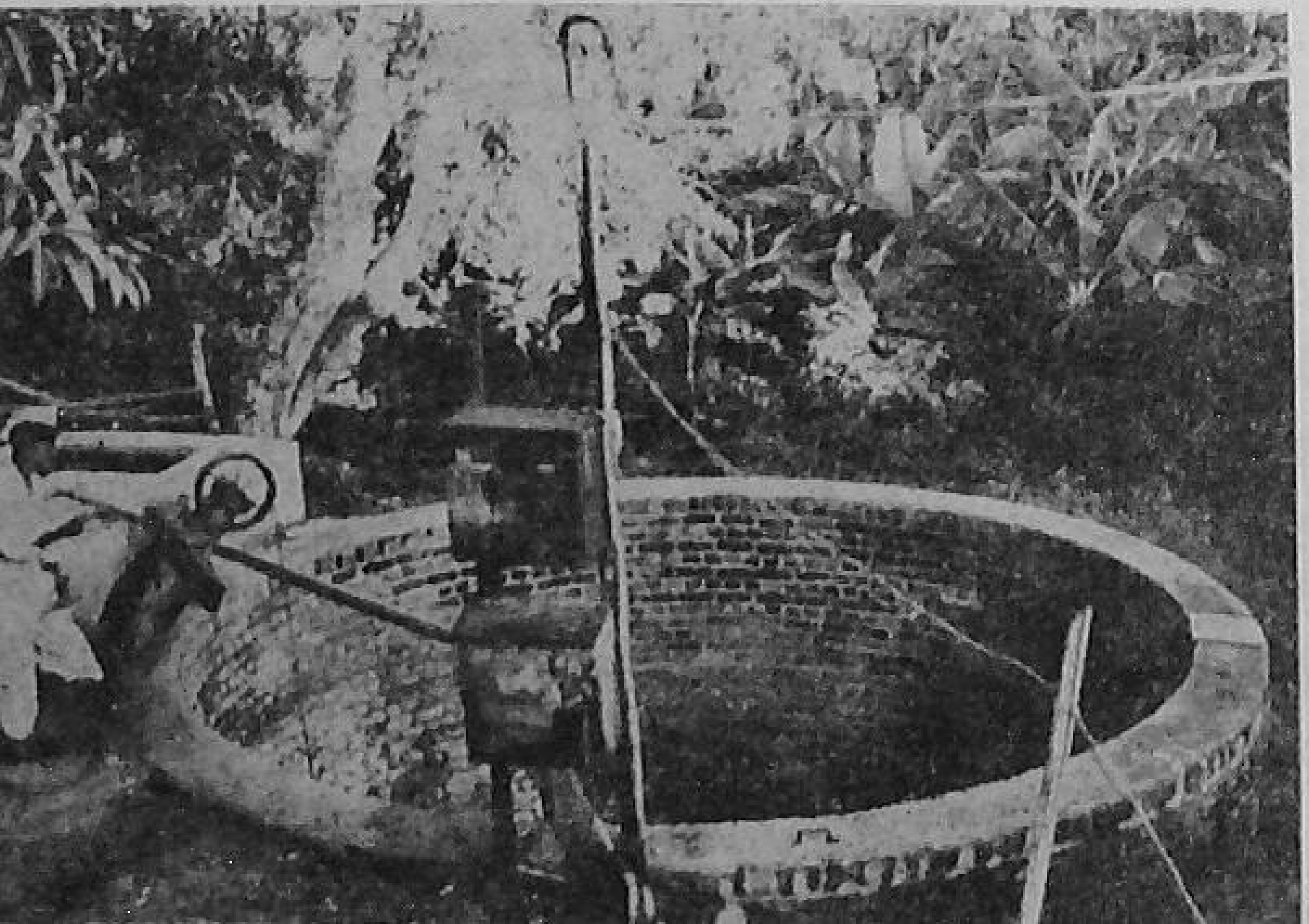
R. G. PATHARKAR

SIDAPPA MAHADEOAPPA JATKAR, a 30 year old farmer of Nandrakoli in Buldana district of Maharashtra, hit the headlines when he bagged the first prize of Rupees Two thousand for the highest yield per acre of about 42 quintals of jowar in the Kharif Jowar Crop Competition for 1963-64, conducted by the State Government. Success did not come to Jatkar easily. He had to work hard for ten years to win this laurel. Ten years of constant experiment and perhaps worries lay behind the contented happy face of Jatkar today. His journey to fame has not, however, been unaided. "I am deeply indebted to the Community Development programme for my success," Jatkar said. But for this programme he would never have got chemical fertilizers, insecticides, etc., and would have remained a low producing farmer like so many peasants in the country.

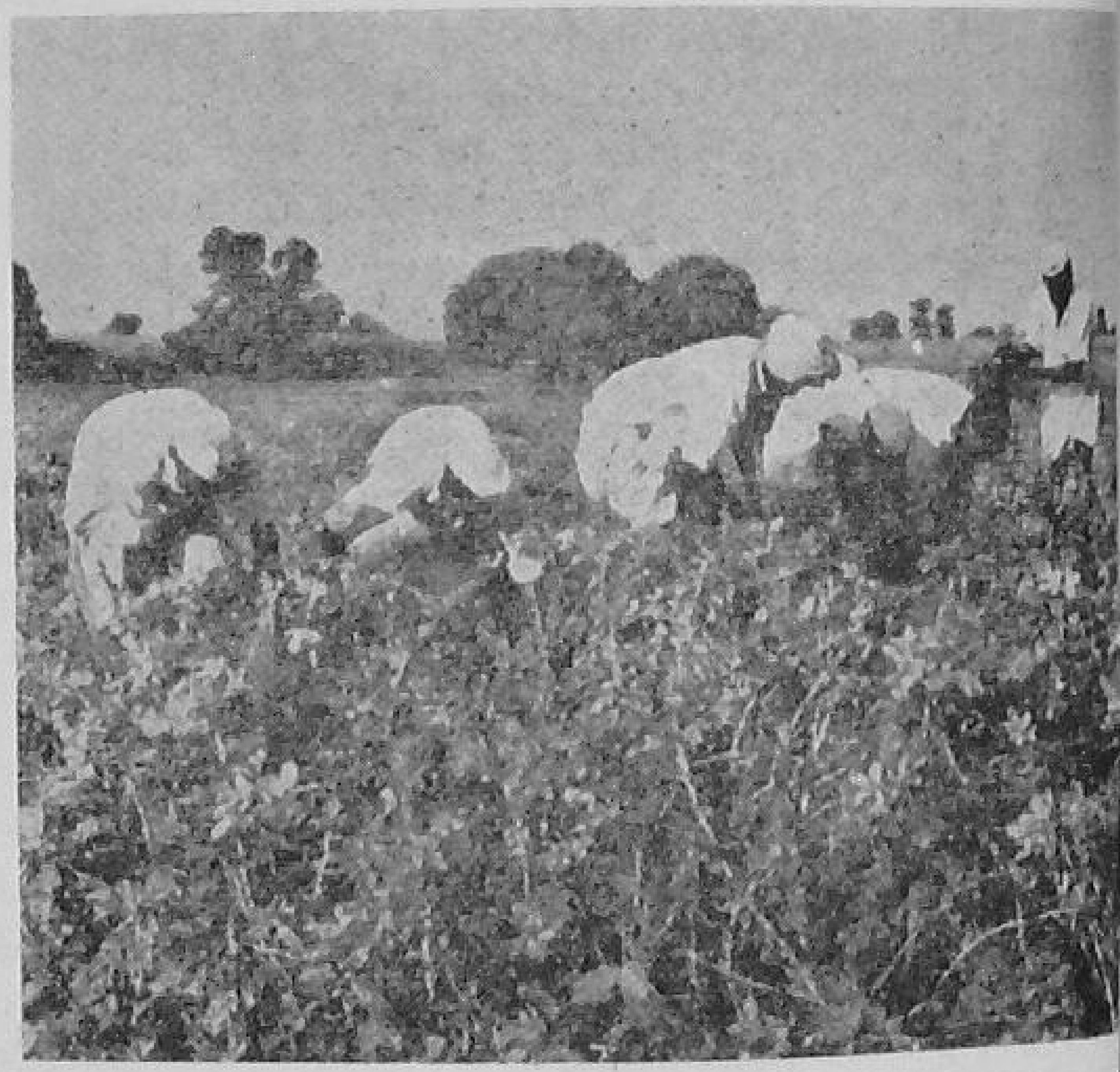
"Use of fertilizers, protection of crop with insecticides and pesticides and irrigation facilities played a very prominent role in boosting the farm production," Jatkar said. He used thirty cart loads of compost manure along with the groundnut oil cake, Ammonium Sulphate, Steromeal etc. in the field in which he had taken about 42 bags of jowar. He also used a truck load of waste from the Slaughter House as the manure.

HIS METHOD

He used dibbling square method in sowing the jowar-seed which was treated with fungicides. The distance between plants were kept to one and a half feet. The sowing was done by the end of July.



Earlier he had lightly ploughed the soil with an iron plough. Before the day of sowing 800 sheep were allowed to leave their excreta in the field so as to manure it.



The view of Shri Jatkar's groundnut crop

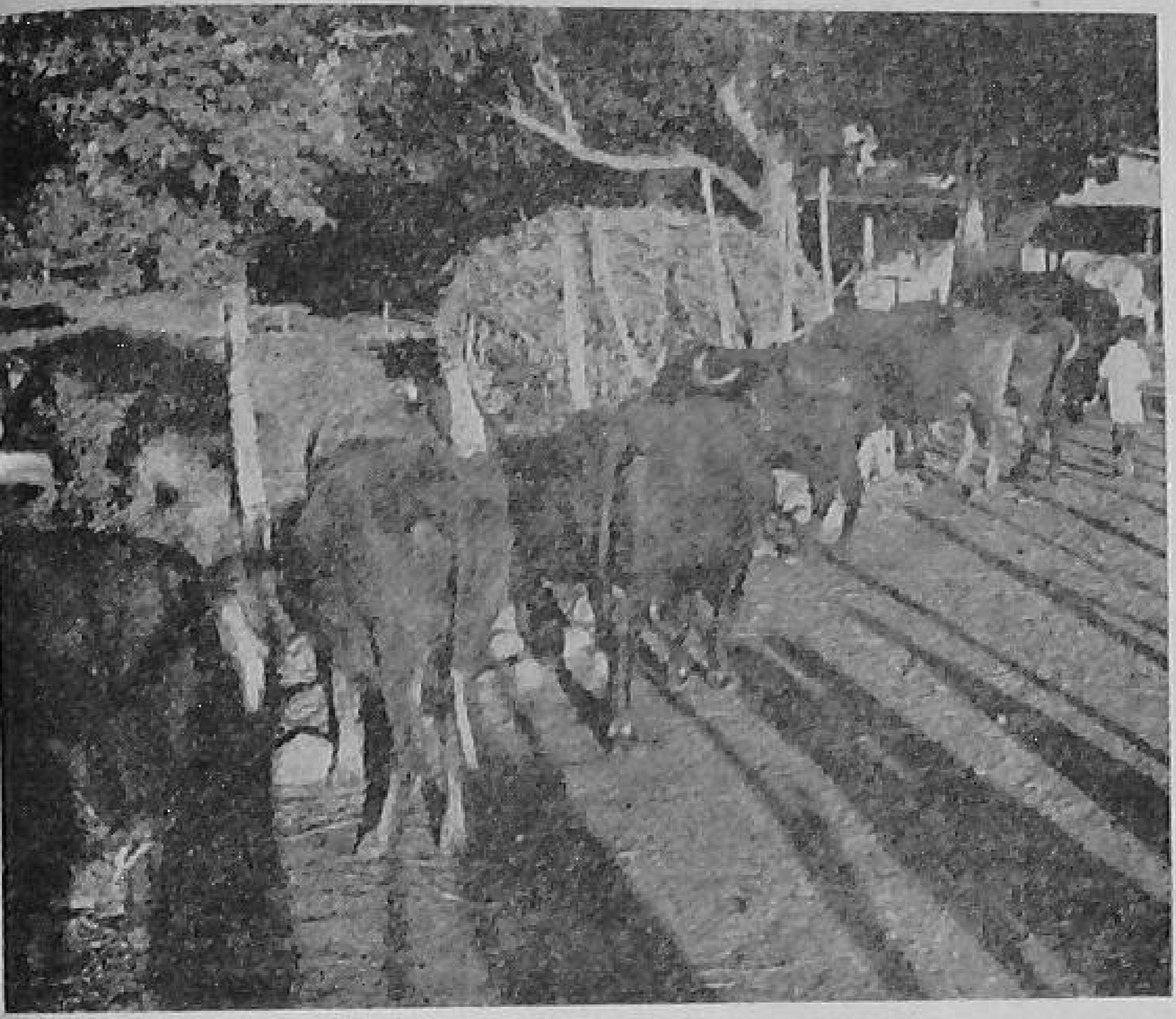
Jatkar had his own arrangements for irrigating his field. He dug five wells and got them installed with electric pumping sets.

The irrigation was done thrice—at the time of hoeing, after *Pola* and lastly at the time of the appearance of the cobs.

The Crop was dusted with the BHC 10 per cent and sulphur at the rate of 15 pounds per acre, twice.

Jatkar is also good in horticulture. His garden consists of four acres out of which two acres yield bananas and guavas while the remaining two acres produce vegetables.

The well dug by Shri Jatkar's father about sixty years back



Shri Jatkar's dairy

He has also a dairy farm and supplies eighty litres of milk per day to Buldana T.B. Sanatorium.

Jatkar is an ideal farmer. He was initiated in agriculture by his father Shri Mahadeoappa and elder brother Shri Dattappa. He is doing agriculture independently for the last five years. He is ambitious. He does not want to remain satisfied with his achievement in the State-level. He wants to take part in all-India crop competitions and hopes to win the first prize some day.

When asked how he would utilise the prize money, he replied, "I will purchase more fertilizers of course."

Jatkar has set a noble example before all the peasants in the country. In the present situation the country wants farmers like him, who have only one mission before them and that is grow more, grow more at any cost.

FROM HERE AND THERE

PANCHAYATI RAJ TRAINING CENTRE

The Government of India have set up a committee to evaluate the working of Panchayati Raj Training Centres in the country. The committee has been asked to assess the standard of training given in Panchayati Raj Training Centres, both institutional and peripatetic, and how far these centres have been effective in equipping office bearers, members and other functionaries of Panchayati Raj institutions at village and Block levels for carrying out their responsibilities. The committee has also been asked to go into the adequacy of organisational and administrative arrangements, staff, accommodation, library and other equipment for the training centres. It is expected to submit its report by the end of December 1965.

VOLUNTARY DEVELOPMENT WORK

A new scheme under which the pick of the youth would be trained in the tasks of leadership is under the consideration of the Union Education Ministry. The young men so trained would form the Vikas Dal.

The Vikas Dal's aim will be to foster a positive and constructive outlook among youth and create, through voluntary social work, an atmosphere of hope and confidence.

The training of the youth would be aimed at creating an awareness of the great nation-building tasks awaiting the people and inspiring loyalty to the country, transcending personal considerations. The project is to be distinguished from the proposal for college and university students to adopt nearby villages for developing work. In this scheme, to start with, about 250 institutions would be selected to help a similar number of villages within about 15 miles of the campus. Apart from term-time when parties of students would visit the chosen village, more intensive work would be undertaken during the summer vacation when camps of 42 days' duration would be held.

Under the new scheme, the Vikas Dal would draw its recruits almost exclusively from among bright young executives or men in the professions in the age-group 24-28. The work of these men would, in the main, be to undertake village projects. Teams of six or seven accounting for a variety of skills and discipline would be deployed in the countryside.

JEEPS FOR DOCTORS

The Rajasthan Government has decided to make available Panchayat Samiti jeeps for doctors going to attend on family members of jawans of the Indian Armed Forces in rural areas of the State.

A 3½ month training programme for women teachers, who will now be responsible for women's programme in Panchayat Samitis, is being conducted at the various Gramsevika Training Centres in the State. Two women teachers out of every girls school under the Panchayat Samitis have been included in the training scheme. Besides the usual pay, the trainees will also be given a stipend of Rs. 25 per month.

Every Panchayat Samiti will organise five training camps to train villagers in improved methods of agriculture, animal husbandry, cooperation and village industry. Separate training camp in family planning, health and home science will be held for women.

VEGETABLES ON A SMALL PLOT

SHRI NANAK CHAND Mali, a kisan of Raisinghnagar in Ganganagar district of Rajasthan has produced different kinds of vegetables on a small plot of land, covering three bighas after levelling a barren tract and through the use of water that was going waste.

He is expecting a bumper crop of vegetables worth about Rs. 3,000 this year.

TRAINING CAMP FOR WOMEN

A THREE week Women's Training Camp was held in Bikaner recently under the auspices of the Rajasthan branch of All India Village Women's Association.

The subjects for training included Panchayati Raj, cooperation, small savings, family planning, civil defence and home nursing.

More than fifty village women participated in this camp.

WELFARE WORK IN SIRMUR

THE ZILA Parishad, Sirmur of Himachal Pradesh decided at a recent meeting to spend a sum of Rs. one lakh on the welfare work for the uplift of backward classes and scheduled castes in the current financial year.

The Zila Parishad decided to provide scholarships, hostel accommodation, books and slates for the students of backward classes out of the funds ear-marked for welfare work.

The Zila Parishad also recommended that lift irrigation scheme for Rajban and Shamshergarh areas in Paonta Block should be speeded up so as to cover 3,500 acres in the valley.

A PANCHAYAT IS BORN

A PANCHAYAT at Malthar, 12 miles from Mandi in Himachal Pradesh, was formally inaugurated recently by the Deputy Commissioner of Mandi. While speaking on the occasion the Deputy Commissioner urged the people to sink all their difference and work unitedly for the development of their Panchayat areas.

PROGRESS THROUGH COOPERATION

SHAHABAJ village in Kolaba district of Maharashtra has become a place of inspiration because it has brought 1,300 acres of khar land under cultivation and supplied one teacher from each house to maintain educational place in the district. Recently Shahabaj school celebrated its centenary.

REWA DEV. BLOCK MARCHES AHEAD

WITH A VIEW to effecting all round development of rural areas, intensive efforts are being made in the development Blocks in the fields of agriculture, veterinary, cooperation, public health and social education.

In Rewa Development Block of Madhya Pradesh, about 400 tonnes of chemical fertilizers and 1,150 quintals of improved seeds were distributed to the cultivators during the year ending March 1965. Besides, 1,387 compost pits were dug and 1,870 acres of land were brought under green manuring. Rice was cultivated on 1,120 acres of land including 85 acres under Japanese method of cultivation.

Under the land development scheme, 2,660 acres of fields were covered by contour bunding, deep ploughing was done on 1,000 acres, 2,225 acres additional land was brought under double cropping and vegetable cultivation was done on 625 acres. Under the plan protection scheme, seed treatment was given on 31,293 acres and field control was done on 124 acres of land. Irrigation facilities were provided for 2,250 acres of land. In order to enhance irrigational facilities, an amount of Rs. 2,87,675 was distributed for constructing 278 irrigation wells.

WHEAT CULTIVATION WITH CHILLY

THE CULTIVATORS of village Gadroli of Shajapur District of Madhya Pradesh have adopted a new method of growing wheat with standing chilly crop. This method has proved very successful and enabled them to get average yield of both the crops.

TOWARDS A BETTER TOMORROW

Men and women—old and young—are today engaged in the noble task of nation-building. Everyone is giving his or her best to usher in a new India. Thousands of young men and women have come forward to dedicate themselves to the rural upliftment which is being done through the Community Development Programme.

In the implementation of this programme they are finding the fulfilment of their life's aim. The Gram Sevaks and Sevikas have been entrusted with the responsibility of awakening the rural people and making them realise their responsibility to the country and the posterity. It is not an easy job. The Gram Sevaks and Sevikas have to be properly trained for this. Training is being imparted to them at various centres opened in the country. In the picture the Gram Sevikas at a training centre are seen busy in gardening.

Two workers are engaged in handpainting of pottery at the Women's Cooperative Industrial Home at Kamarhati in West Bengal.

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